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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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WEST OF THE RIVER FAMILY CENTER

Planned move of former 'Y' won't happen

Nonprofit board meets Thursday to find alternative response to deficits, declining membership numbers

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Agawam's nonprofit community center will "explore other options" this week after failing to sign a tenancy contract with Stick Time Sports.

Last month, the leadership of the West of the River Family

Center reported that they had an agreement to move out of their current home, the former Agawam YMCA at 61 Springfield St., and into leased space across the parking lot at Stick Time, a privately owned indoor sports and conditioning facility. On Dec. 7, Stick Time co-owner Sean Provost sent the nonprofit group a

letter stating he would "regrettably wish to pass on the proposed solution of working with the West of the River Family Center."

In an interview, Provost said they began discussing the idea of a partnership in July. Talks began in earnest in September, and had progressed as far as putting together a floorplan and arrang-

ing for Stick Time to purchase exercise equipment to replace the family center's current leased units, which it would be returning to the rental company.

Joseph Mineo, chairman of the West of the River Family Center's Board of Directors, had announced the partnership in early November but confirmed

this week that there was never a signed contract between the two parties. He said on Tuesday that his board had not yet informed staff or members of the change in plans, but had scheduled an emergency meeting for 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, to discuss their

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HIGH SCHOOL

Stands still aren't done

Though new sports field opened in Oct., handicap access lags

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The new athletic facilities at Agawam High School are active and available for the various sports teams, but as of the end of last week, still not completed.

Chief Procurement Officer Jennifer Bonfiglio, who has been helping to oversee the renovation project for AHS fields and locker rooms, said while football games and numerous fall sports contests took place on the new artificial turf multi-use field, the full facility is still not available to the schools yet.

The biggest problem with the facility is full access and use of the bleachers and press box.

As part of having full handicapped access to the bleachers, a ramp was supposed to be installed and the parts had not arrived as of early December. Bonfiglio said the work was supposed to be finished by Dec. 7, but that did not happen.

This represents another major delay in the project, though time is no longer of the essence now that fall sports are concluded. The only sports teams using the facility are the indoor track teams, and only when the weather is warm enough.

There are no events scheduled for the field until spring.

Bonfiglio and town officials are hoping the work to finish the bleachers will be completed soon, leaving only small "punch-list" items to be completed by the contractor.

The town is not currently involved or preparing to litigate for damages for the delays in the project, but Bonfiglio said the town is looking for credits of some kind from the sub-contractor that provided the parts for the bleachers.

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Art at work

Above: The Winter Arts Festival included a holiday concert in the auditorium by students in several AHS choirs. The final performance of the evening featured combined choirs under the direction of Sonja Funk.

Right: Agawam High School junior Cassandra Jones uses oil pastels to make a random collage with a portrait in the center during the Winter Arts Festival, held last week at the school. More photos, page 16. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS

BY MIKE LYDICK



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Police raid 'massage parlors' in town as fronts for prostitution

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Police raided alleged human trafficking operations in Agawam and Feeding Hills this week, part of a coordinated action against "massage parlors" in several Massachusetts communities.

Four individuals were arrested Tuesday, including Shuzi Li, 52, of West Springfield, who was

taken into custody in connection with allegations of trafficking women between the Flushing neighborhood of Queens, N.Y., and businesses in Agawam and Northampton.

"Human trafficking is happening right here in our own communities across the state," said Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. "It is an egregious crime that victimizes vulnerable

people, while traffickers profit. This is about the exploitation of human beings and my office will continue to prosecute these cases to hold traffickers and sex buyers accountable. We thank all of our law enforcement partners who assisted us in this major operation."

Li is alleged to be the operator of Pine Spa NoHo in Northampton and Agawam Massage Ther-

apy near the South End Bridge Agawam.

Agawam Police also participated in a search of Feeding Hills Spa at 1226 Springfield St., along with Massachusetts State Police attached to the Hampden district attorney's office and officials from the Springfield office of the federal Department of Home-

RAID | page 8



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CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, the superintendent of schools' salary was misstated in last week's Agawam Advertiser News ("Mayor Pledges to Veto Any Raise in His Pay," Dec. 8). According to the superintendent, his actual salary is \$161,329.

Trading Post bag sale Saturday

The Trading Post consignment shop at the First Baptist Church of Agawam will hold a bag sale this Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bags are \$5 each. Shoppers can fill each bag to the brim with any of the clothing, books or household items in the shop. The shop is at 760 Main St, Agawam.

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Mayors' aid



Mayor Richard Cohen of Agawam, left, and Mayor William Reichelt of West Springfield, make their annual \$100 donations to the Parish Cupboard in honor of the annual Agawam-West Springfield Thanksgiving high school football game. Accepting the donation is Martha Tighe, executive director of Parish Cupboard. SUBMITTED PHOTO

United Methodist to hold Christmas Eve service

A Christmas Eve service will take place at 7 p.m. at Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills.
There will be no Christmas Day service. All are invited to attend the 9 a.m. service on Dec. 25 at Christ Church United Methodist, 222 College Highway, Southwick.

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Library food drive wraps up Dec. 17

The Agawam Public Library is collecting nonperishable food items through Dec. 17. This year the donations will be brought to the Parish Cupboard in West Springfield, which serves Agawam and West Side residents. Hamburger Helper and small containers of condiments are always in demand. All other non-perishable food will also be accepted — but please, no expired food. There is a basket for donations across from the circulation desk at the Agawam Library.
To learn more about this organization, visit www.parishcupboard.com. For more information about the food drive, call the Children's Room at library at 413-789-1550, ext. 3. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.



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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Learn business tips for Google next month

WEST SPRINGFIELD — West of the River Chamber of Commerce will hold a Google workshop from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at West Springfield Public Library, 200 Park Ave.

This free event is open to the public. It is hosted by WRC and SCORE, a nonprofit association of volunteer business counselors. Participants will learn how to effectively utilize Google analytics and AdWords to better their business' on-line exposure. A light lunch will be served.

Register online at www.westoftheriverchamber.com.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 413-426-3880 or email info@westoftheriverchamber.com.

Cooper's customers support Wreaths Across America

Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home has announced that a new record donation through the store's Round Up program, \$840, was raised through customer donations during the month of November to support Wreaths Across America. This donation will provide 56 graveside wreaths to be laid at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam this holiday season.

"We love our customers. They are some of the most generous people around," said Kate Gourde, second-generation owner of Cooper's. "We're so proud to be able to support this initiative to honor our veterans from across the country right here in our own town."

The wreath-laying ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. at the cemetery at 1390 Main St., Agawam. The public is encouraged to attend this family-friendly event.

Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round Up program, through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50 percent of the total collected. The program has raised nearly \$5,000 for local organizations since its inception in 2014.

For December, customers can support Friends of the Homeless, a Springfield-based nonprofit that provides emergency overnight and day shelter, housing and support services for hundreds of men and women each year.

"We're hoping to celebrate the holiday season with another record donation," Gourde said. "Last year our customers helped provide 700 meals for Friends of the Homeless patrons. We're hoping to shatter that record this year."

Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home, 161 Main St., Agawam, is open seven days a week. It has been a local, family-owned Western Massachusetts shopping destination since 1973.

Vote stands on 'stretch' building code

Just 2 councilors object at public hearing on new energy efficiency rules

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The stretch code has been adopted, and it stayed that way after the Agawam City Council "re-voted" last Monday night, Dec. 5, to affirm their Sept. 19 vote to adopt the updated building code.

At the request of two councilors, Robert Rossi and Donald Rheault, the board held a public hearing that included a presentation on the benefits of the code, a more stringent building code that towns can adopt to encourage energy efficiency.

Information presented by Jim Barry, a proponent of the stretch code from the state Department of Energy Resources, showed that the standard state building code is catching up to the requirements of the stretch code, so adopting it is not that much of a "stretch" anymore.

Erik Wight, the town's building inspector, said he would have opposed the stretch code in years past.

"It is called the stretch code for a reason," said Wight. "Because the work would have stretched out my staff."

Wight said the inspection requirements would have been too much for his current staff to handle, but with new state-wide requirements for energy efficiency, it's not a huge difference.

"They are getting so close that it does not really matter anymore," said Wight. "I'm not for it, but I am not against it."

There was not a lot of new discussion among members of the City Council, though Rossi continued to voice his opposition to it, saying it was not a good fit for the town.

Councilors Christopher Johnson and Gina Letellier both spoke in favor. Johnson said adopting the stretch code will allow the town to achieve Green Community status and qualify for more than \$200,000 per year in energy project grants from the state.

"If we don't do this, we are leaving money on the table," said Johnson.

Barry also told the council that if the state changes the stretch code, and the town does not like changes, it can rescind the code if it chooses.

"It is definitely reversible," he said. "You're not stuck with it."

The public hearing was held at

Rossi's requested because he believed it was a required part of the adoption of the code. Johnson argued with Rossi last month, saying the public hearing was only "suggested" to collect public input.

No one spoke against adopting the stretch code at the public hearing.

The town has already applied for Green Community status as the vote to adopt the code was never rescinded and was valid. The deadline to apply was Nov. 21.

Town Planning and Community Development Director Marc Strange said the Department of Energy Resources gave Agawam an extension on the part of the application involved with the stretch code to allow for the outcome of the vote.

He said the application is now fully submitted, as of early last week.

"I'm glad the council decided to stay with the same decision," said Strange. "DOER made a great presentation and they are right that the codes are really close together. You definitely do not want to leave that grant money out there."

Gift-giving program continues thanks to church members

Members of St. David's Church in Feeding Hills has been partnering for four years with the town nurse, Sherry Petrucci, RN, to bring smiles to children residing in Agawam and Feeding Hills.

It began in late fall of 2013 with a phone call to the Agawam Health Department from Norman Lefebvre with an idea to join forces in providing assistance with Christmas gifts for children in town. This plan was so well received by the members of St. David's Church it expanded to Easter baskets the following year. Lefebvre has since moved out of state, but the tradition he began four years ago continues today with assistance from Roxanne and Ted Zern.

Each December and April, the Agawam Health Department is filled with Easter baskets and Christmas gifts from the generous congregation of St. David's Church.



Agawam's town nurse, Sherry Petrucci, far right, and Roxanne and Ted Zern, members at St. David's Church, are pictured with just some of the Christmas gifts to be donated to area children. SUBMITTED PHOTO

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Pay the mayor the job's worth

Mayor Richard Cohen said last week that he doesn't want or need a raise in pay. That's fine for him — and taking this public stand probably doesn't hurt his 2017 re-election chances — but the School Committee member Anthony Bonavita's pay raise proposal isn't about Mayor Richard Cohen. It's about the mayor, period.

Agawam's mayor is underpaid for the role of chief executive of a nearly \$100 million municipal budget, regardless of who sits in the central office on the second floor of Town Hall.

This isn't about keeping pace with other positions on the municipal payroll. To see that the mayor doesn't even crack the top 50 town employees in fiscal 2015 may be a bit of a shock, but it's easily explained. Superintendents of schools are usually the highest-paid employee in town government, because of the complexity of the job and high level of education required. The same is true of other school administrators. Public safety officers — police and fire — also frequently out-earn a town's chief executive because they literally put their lives on the line, and because they earn overtime pay for working details or covering extra shifts. In Agawam, in particular, some department heads at Town Hall were taking home hefty paychecks in fiscal 2015 because they had accumulated dozens of merit and longevity raises over decades of service.

Besides, to give the mayor the town's top salary would mean almost doubling the current rate. The argument to taxpayers for Bonavita's proposed \$10,000 hike is hard enough; to suggest an \$80,000 bump seems excessive.

If adopted by the City Council, the raise from \$85,000 a year to \$95,000 a year would not take effect until 2018, after the current mayoral term ends. Though Cohen has promised to veto such an ordinance, the council could override his veto with a two-thirds vote.

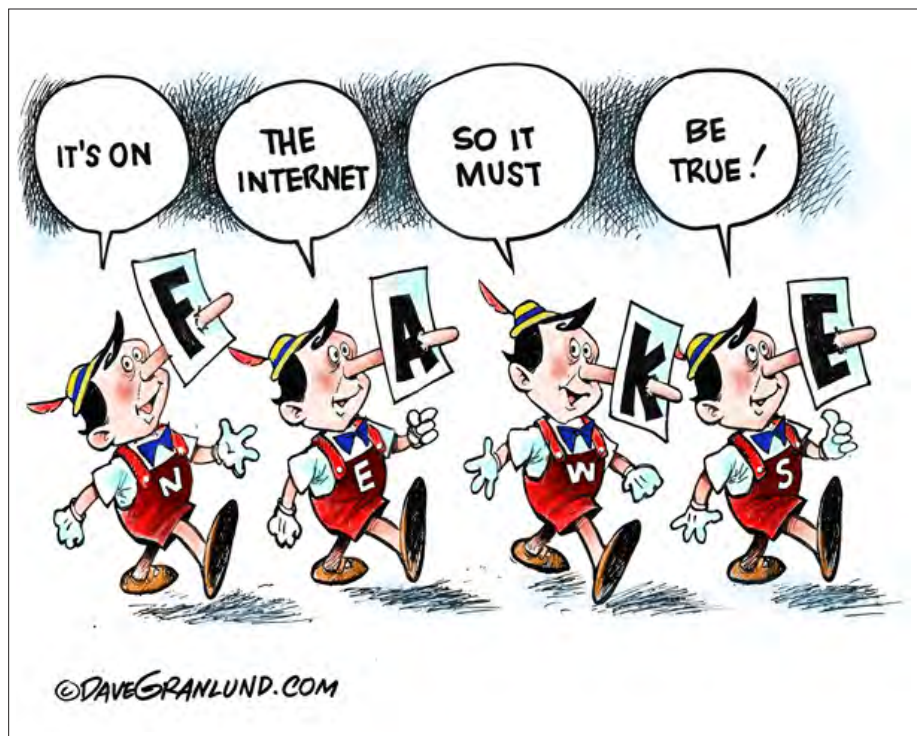
The mayor doesn't have to be the highest paid employee in town, but taxpayers and city councilors should look at the salary question the same way that the mayor and council look at any other town employee salary: Is this person being paid fairly for the work being performed? Is the town keeping pace with its neighbors? Does this salary enable Agawam to attract the best possible applicants for this position?

Much has been written about how Agawam's mayor is paid the same as the mayors of Chicopee and Holyoke, two cities with larger populations and larger budgets. But the problems facing Agawam, Chicopee and Holyoke are no less complex than those facing towns half their size led by part-time boards of selectmen. In those towns, the duties of a city's mayor are usually fulfilled by an appointed town administrator or town manager. And this chief administrator, in a town with a population greater than 15,000, is usually paid well over \$85,000, often over \$100,000.

Almost anyone with the demonstrated skills to effectively manage a budget and workforce this large and complex would have to take a massive pay cut to run for mayor. Not to mention putting his or her private-sector career on hold and giving up any semblance of job security every other November.

"Every other November" comes again in 11 months, and raising any elected official's salary looks unseemly when cuts are being considered anywhere else in the budget — which they always are. Cohen, or his successor, will likely have to accept \$85,000, a salary determined not by fair appraisal of the job's complexity, nor fair comparison with similar positions in a wide range of other towns, but, like the election itself, by image and politics.

What do you think? Email your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



Letter to the Editor

More money does not guarantee better candidates

Various resolutions to appropriate funds for salary increases over and above those already budgeted for this fiscal year will come before the City Council at their Dec. 19 meeting.

Police and fire personnel provide critical services and various town administrative personnel are important, too. However, I question the fairness of asking citizens at large to pay these employees 2 percent annual increases, plus step increases, plus new incentive opportunities for each of the next three years. Much of the citizenry doing the paying are receiving little or no increase in pay, or are receiving negligible Social Security increases that are more than offset by Medicare premiums.

Should the majority of council members choose to support these salary overruns, thereby confirming new agreements which the mayor has already negotiated with various unions, I suggest that these budget overruns be funded from other line items within each affected department's budget. The resolutions as written fund these overruns from the "retained earnings" of the enterprise funds (Water, Wastewater, and Golf) and from "free cash" for general fund departments. Appropriating more of citizens' tax money that the town has held in reserve should not be done until other

funding options are exhausted.

Two ordinances to increase salaries for the mayor and School Committee members are also slated to come before the City Council on Dec. 19. The mayor's salary has been flat at \$85,000 for many years and it is an important, full-time position. On the other hand, transportation and the potential for current medical coverage, as well as retiree pension and medical, sweeten the pay package. Also, a couple of comparably sized towns in the area pay their mayor \$85,000. It's the School Committee pay ordinance which I really object to (as I would to a similar City Council ordinance if it had been brought forward). These part-time positions already pay a modest salary, plus offer some potential for current medical coverage and retiree benefits. I believe these positions are an opportunity for citizens to perform their civic duty, as so many others do on the numerous committees and commissions that carry out town governance. Some say that paying more for any of these positions will attract more or better candidates. I'm not convinced more money will bring forward civic-minded, rather than self-interested, candidates, though.

Brian Halla
Agawam

JAY SPEAKS

Snippets of history, from barber pole on

An elderly gentleman and his barber were talking about barber poles.

The old gent was asking the young barber why he doesn't see as many barber poles out in front of barbershops as he used to see. The young barber replied that he thought they might not be relevant today. The elder gent asked why.

The younger said, "Well, the white and red pole years ago indicated that the barber was available for dentistry work, doctor's work, a pharmacist as well as a hair cutter."

The conversation got me to thinking of my barbershop experiences. My first memory of visiting a barber was as a youngster with my dad. The shop was named "Harry's Haircuts." The logo read, "We Keep You Looking Good." My dad introduced me to the owner. The owner brought me over to the selection of mugs. Everyone had his own mug. The barbers used the mugs to make soap either for a shave or to trim your neck or sideburns.

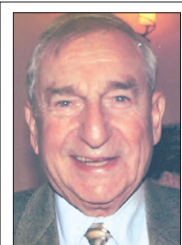
This was the era when many men relied on the local barber to shave them, rather than do it at home. There was a shoeshine person who would shine your shoes while

waiting or while you were in the barber's chair. This was my Dad's mission, to get me there weekly for many years. The conversation was about sports almost exclusively. Every so often it would revolve around the weather report or some tragedy.

When I entered the service at 17, haircuts were easy. The so-called barber would run an electric clipper over your scalp and make it very, very, short.

After the service I entered UMass. The barber was a favorite legend before, during, and after I left. He was Nelson the Barber. He knew everyone on campus and never forgot a name. I was on the 50th anniversary committee and while at the event decided to get a haircut. I didn't realize that Nelson was still there cutting hair. I walked through the door and Nelson, cool as a cucumber, said "Hi, Jay!" like I was still a student.

When I moved to Boston after graduation, the barbershops there were sophisticated. There was a greeter who took your coat or jacket ... asked what you wanted for service, offered you coffee or tea. They also provided you with a newspaper and had



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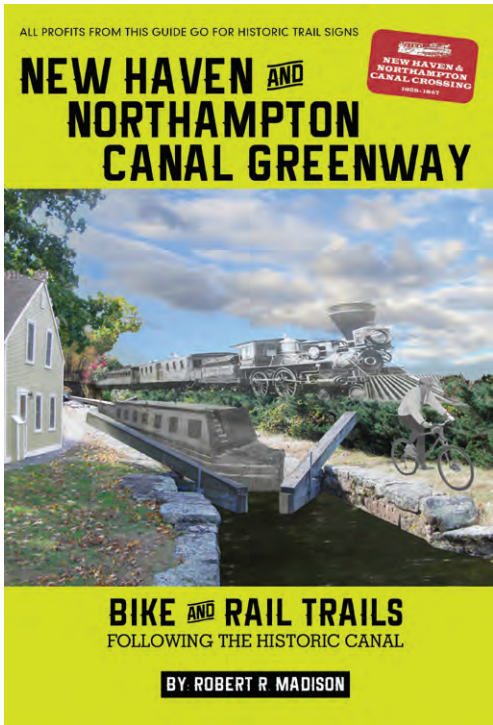
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Agawam resident Bob Madison's book, "New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway: Bike and Rail Trails Following the Historic Canal."



Agawam resident Bob Madison recently presented a copy of his latest book to the Agawam Public Library. In attendance were, seated, Howie Safford, president of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans; and, standing, from left, Agawam Historical Society member Alice Smith, Mayor Richard Cohen, Silver Street Media representative Bruce Jacobsen, Library Director Judith Clini, and Madison holding his watercolor of a canal boat leaving an old wooden guard lock. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam author to speak about canal trail book

On Jan. 11, author Bob Madison, a resident of Agawam, has scheduled a book signing and PowerPoint presentation in Agawam Public Library's Community Room at 6:30 p.m. This event takes place during the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Madison will present his book, "New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway Bike and Rail Trails Following the Historic Canal." Proceeds from his books and lectures will go to the Southwick Historical Society to purchase historical-style plaques to be placed on community roadsides in locations where the canal made its way through Western New England. The Southwick Historical Society has embraced this project because in 1825, canal diggers started

at Congamond Lake and headed south to New Haven and Long Island Sound. When that section was completed, in 1826, canal diggers again started at Congamond Lake and headed north to Northampton and the Connecticut River.

"As mayor of Agawam, I am both pleased and honored to join Bob Madison in kicking off this exciting event and book signing," commented Richard Cohen. "Please join me in congratulating and honoring him for preserving this piece of our history for all to enjoy. Great job and well done."

The New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway rails-to-trails book is a comprehensive guide which includes trail maps, trailhead descriptions, attractions and distances. Also included is a little history of each of the 16 towns,

along with the history of the canal and the railroad as today's rail trail works its way through some 87 miles.

On display during his presentation will be 16 watercolors that appear in his book. Madison uses these watercolors so the reader can follow an imaginary cruise that depicts significant features within each of the 16 communities.

The book is available in both softcover and hardcover editions. Madison's book was printed in Agawam by Silver Street Media, a unit of Bridgeport National Bindery. The publisher's mission is not only to print and publish books, but to teach authors the ins and outs of publishing and distributing their books. Books may be purchased during the book signing or online from silverstreetmedia.com.

Legislators to speak at Chamber breakfast

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West of the River Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast will take place at Springfield Country Club from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22. The breakfast will feature a panel of local state legislators, including Sen. James Welch, Sen. Don Humason, Rep. Nicholas Boldyga and Rep. Michael Finn, as well as mayors Richard Cohen of Agawam and Will Reichelt of West Springfield.

Tickets are \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Register online at www.westoftheriverchamber.com. For more information on ticket sales contact the chamber office at 413-426-3880 or email info@westoftheriverchamber.com.

Springfield Country Club is at 1375 Elm St., West Springfield.

BERGER ■ from page 4

the stock market readings scrolling across the wall.

Shoeshines and nail service was also available. The prices were certainly much higher than I was used to paying. I looked for the barber pole. It was on a rod, up high, just inside the door.

Moving to Springfield, I saw the barber pole in just about every neighborhood. Nothing fancy, just a good haircut. As the years went by, most of the haircutting establishments were in Springfield's South End. There was "Famous Tony's." If you wanted to catch up on the latest in politics, just sit in the barber chair at Tony's. His shop had a barber pole out front.

At the same time, Springfield was catching up with Boston. A new shop opened at the downtown mall called "Lord's and Lady's." It used the same techniques as Boston. "Take your coat, ask for tea or coffee, nails done, shoes shined, what type of hair treatment." It did not last long in Springfield.

After moving to Agawam, I noted that many of the hair establishments were now employing women to cut hair. And they were good at it! They now cut men's hair and do women's hair needs as well.

I can't predict what the next shakeup in barbering will bring. Let's hope it doesn't approach the President Bill Clinton model, when he flew into Bradley Field and a barber came on board and did his hair for \$200, plus a tip.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DEATH NOTICES

DiLorenzo, Dorothea
Died Dec. 10
Funeral Dec. 15
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Feeley, Teresa N.
Died Dec. 5
Funeral Dec. 12
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Hadden, Shirley Mae
Died Dec. 10
Memorial service Dec. 17
Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home
West Springfield

Lane, Gary P.
Died Dec. 7
Funeral Dec. 13
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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Youth

Horace Smith scholarship, fellowship funds available

The Horace Smith Fund, now in its 118th year, has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Scholarship awards of \$10,000 are distributed as \$2,500 annual grants, renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$12,000 are distributed as \$4,000 annual grants, renewable for two additional years. Students must maintain at least a B average in college.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their SAT scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, financial need, recommendations and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Fellowship applicants must also submit their GRE scores and transcript. All recipients must be full-time students and residents of Hampden County.

Last year, \$258,000 was awarded to 25

individuals. Scholarships were given to 19 graduating seniors from 14 Hampden County high schools. Two scholarships were also awarded to college students to assist them in completing their education. Four fellowships were given to college graduates who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The fund was established in 1899 by Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to the Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund, 1441 Main St., Springfield, no later than Feb. 1. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning 413-739-4222.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 19: Chicken bowl, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, garlic knot, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 20: Hot pockets with dipping sauce, seasoned broccoli, cheesy garlic bread, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 21: Chicken filet wrap with assorted sauce, served with lettuce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 22: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, Dec. 23: Half day. No lunch served.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, Goldfish crackers, seasoned vegetables, assorted fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 20: Chicken parmesan over pasta, garlic bread, seasoned carrots, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 21: Turkey with gravy, mashed

potatoes, whole-grain stuffing, ice cream sandwich, raisins, assorted chilled fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 22: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Dec. 23: Half day. No lunch served.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Dec. 19: Assorted low-sugar cereal, stuffed bagel sticks, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 20: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain bars, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 21: Assorted low-sugar cereal, warm cinnamon roll, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.

Thursday, Dec. 22: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain bar, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.

Friday, Dec. 23: Assorted waffles with syrup, string cheese, fresh fruit, juice or milk.

St. Pat's Colleen applications due Friday

Applications for the 2017 Agawam St. Patrick's Colleen coronation are due Friday, Dec. 16.

The purpose of the pageant is to promote a sense of Irish awareness and spirit in the community of Agawam. The Colleen and her court will participate in activities throughout the "Irish season," culminating in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Applicants must be single, between

the ages of 17 and 22, have no children, must claim Irish ancestry and have an interest in continuing their education. Applicants must be residents of Agawam or Feeding Hills.

The pageant will take place Feb. 12 at Chez Josef in Agawam. Applications are available at Agawam High School, Agawam Public Library, Town Hall, Cooper's Gifts, and on the Facebook page of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee.

AHS COUNSELING BULLETIN

Special interest programs

The American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid applications, both in-person, at Centers and over the phone (877-33-4348). Additionally, the Boston College Planning Center is holding FAFSA Workshops every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Federal Student Aid ID Workshops every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. More information is available by calling Kristi Pierce at 617-728-4608.

New England Institute of Technology will be hosting a series of Career Education Days to help students learn more about their potential careers —Engineering and Communications Day, March 3; Health Day, April 7. To register for any of these events go to NEIT.edu/Career-Education.

Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College are again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in each semester through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details.

Elms College is offering the Advanced Placement Program to qualified students. Tuition is waived and students pay only a registration fee of \$20 and a technology fee of \$50. Registration for the spring 2017 semester should be submitted before Jan. 17. For more information, contact the registrar at 413-265-2314.

Are you a young entrepreneur? Graduating high school seniors who operate their own small business

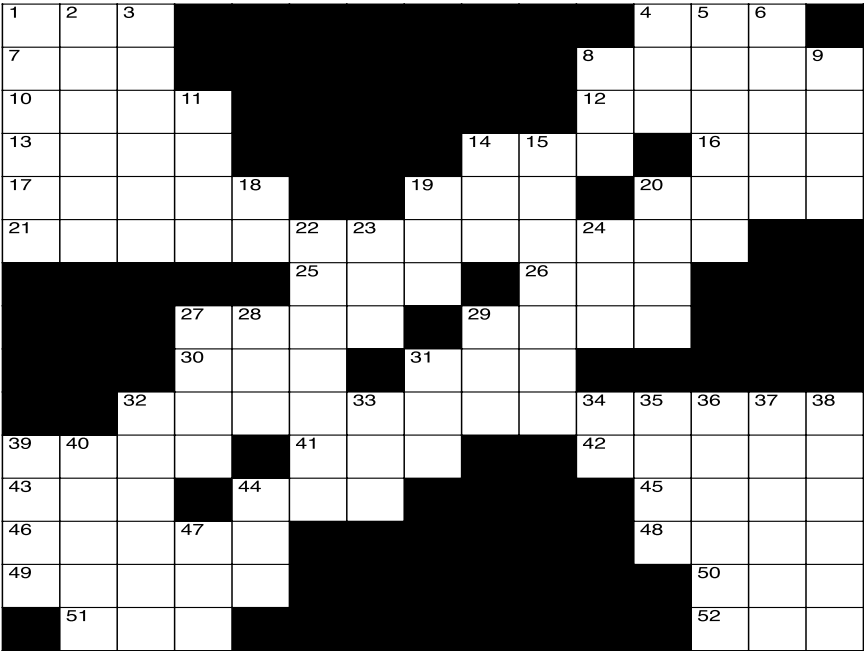
are eligible to receive a 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award from the NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation. Visit NFIB.com/YEA for more information and to apply online between by Dec. 18.

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: Hendry David Thoreau Foundation; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Make College Happen Challenge; Massachusetts AFL-CIO Scholarship Awards Program; Young Entrepreneur Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; 2017 Profile in Courage Essay; Elon Teaching Fellows Program; Skidmore College; Ronald McDonald House Charities US Scholarship Program; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Big Y Scholarship; Charitable and Educational Trust of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Order Sons of Italy in America; Agawam High School PTSO; American College Foundation; B. Davis Scholarship; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Business Professional Scholarship.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Words of wisdom: "Always be ready to thank those that have helped you." — Mrs. Daly, Spanish teacher



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large primate
- 4. Annualized percentage rate
- 7. Frictional horsepower
- 8. Alternate name
- 10. Incurison
- 12. Metrical feet
- 13. Musician
- 14. Swiss river
- 16. Text speak for annoying
- 17. Squelch
- 19. Will Ferrell played one
- 20. Close violently
- 21. Arrogant
- 25. Goddess of the dawn
- 26. Today (Spanish)
- 27. Ethiopian town
- 29. Speed
- 30. Kids take it to school

CLUES DOWN

- 31. Bowling ball's adversary
- 32. 1988 NFL MVP
- 39. Volcanic crater
- 41. Curved shape
- 42. Discover by investigation
- 43. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 44. A son who shares his dad's name
- 45. Assist in wrongdoing
- 46. Actress Lathan
- 48. Nonsense (slang)
- 49. Sharp and forthright
- 50. Midway between northeast and east
- 51. NAACP cofounder Wells
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Again
- 2. Erectile organs
- 3. Concluding speech
- 4. Pie __ mode
- 5. With pustules
- 6. Muslim
- 8. Need it to live
- 9. Thailand
- 11. Container to serve food
- 14. Boxing great
- 15. Woolen blankets
- 18. Expresses surprise
- 19. Emergency medical services
- 20. Inflamed swelling of the eyelid
- 22. Reporter
- 23. Arrived extinct

- 24. Ad __
- 27. Academic bill of rights
- 28. A pair
- 29. Pumpkin and apple are examples
- 31. China
- 32. Made illegal
- 33. Be mistaken
- 34. Stephen King's "Pennywise"
- 35. Semite
- 36. Martens with short tails
- 37. Large bodies of water
- 38. Lower in position
- 39. Dough used in Latin American cuisine
- 40. Calculating tools
- 44. Boxers do this
- 47. Macaw



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Impressionist artist gives demo at holiday social

Award-winning artist Bernie Duffy will demonstrate impressionist art at the Dec. 21 meeting of the Tobacco Valley Artists Association and Holiday Social. The 6:30 p.m. meeting on the lower level at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., will begin with a brief business meeting followed by the demonstration.

Duffy's work is described as leaning toward impressionism, and some pieces have been described as somewhat abstract with a feeling of cubism. His primary medium is oil, but also enjoys working with acrylics, pastels and watercolor.

He has been involved with art since childhood. He is a self-taught artist who has also taken college level art courses with Tony Cirone at Asnuntuck Community College, private portrait painting with Kip Brodeur and impressionist painting with Margaret Egli in Punta Gorda, Fla. He has traveled abroad to Italy and Austria to expand on plein air painting with groups organized by Egli.

Upon retiring from a career in law enforcement, Duffy joined the Tobacco Valley Artist Association and currently serves as the association's chief executive officer.



Award-winning artist Bernie Duffy will be the guest speaker at the Dec. 21 meeting of the Tobacco Valley Artists Association. SUBMITTED PHOTO

He has been accepted into the national Academic Artists Association. He is also a member of the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, Fla., and most recently became a member of the Artists at the Crossroads.

A talented artist, Duffy has been accepted and awarded in multiple juried art shows.

The Tobacco Valley Artists Association meets on the third Wednesday of the month and meetings are open to all lovers of art. For more information, contact Sam Dupuis at 860-745-3608 or samdupuis45@outlook.com.

WEDDING

Maloney – Zutty

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Oceancliff Resort in Newport, R.I., was the setting for the Oct. 1, 2016, marriage of Marc Maloney and Lisa Zutty.

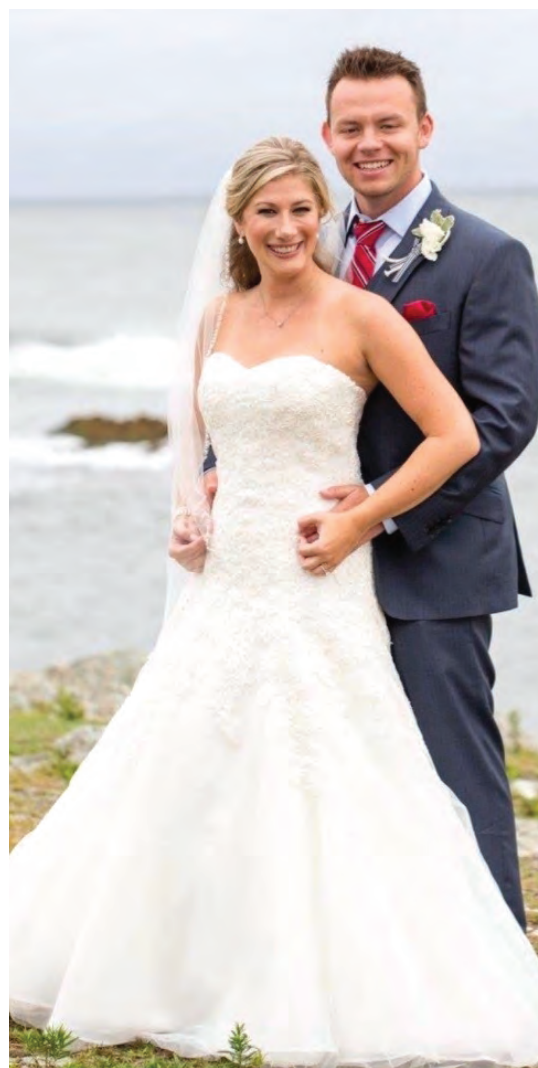
Parents of the groom are Stephen and Giselle Maloney of Feeding Hills. Parents of the bride are Peter and Marilyn Zutty of Boca Raton, Fla. Debra Zutty, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor and Lauren Maloney, sister of the groom, was a bridesmaid. Joshua DeGrandpre, friend of the groom, served as best man.

An interfaith ceremony was co-officiated with Rabbi Mark Newton and the Rev. Steven C. Amo.

Marc is a graduate of Endicott College in Beverly, and is a registered nurse in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He is also the head coach of the Stonehill College women's tennis program in Easton.

Lisa graduated from the University of Delaware and received a master's degree in education from Boston University. She received a certificate from Leslie University as a reading specialist. She is employed by the Winchester, Mass., School Department.

The couple will make their home in Beverly.



Lisa Zutty and Marc Maloney

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 66 EMS calls from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5, and the following emergency response calls.

On Nov. 30 at 7:15 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for public service.

On Nov. 30 at 11:32 p.m., the department responded to Roosevelt Avenue for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Dec. 1 at 9:06 a.m., the department responded to Independence Road for lockout.

On Dec. 1 at 2:48 p.m., the department responded to Northwood Street to assist invalid.

On Dec. 2 at 5:46 a.m., the department responded to North Street Ext. for lockout.

On Dec. 2 at 7:14 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for smoke detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 2 at 4:38 p.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 3 at 8:59 a.m., the department responded to Roosevelt Avenue for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 4 at 10:47 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 4 at 4:16 p.m., the department responded to Bowles Road for false alarm or false call, other.

On Dec. 4 at 4:23 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On Dec. 5 at 10:09 a.m., the department responded to Reed Street for public service.

On Dec. 5 at 3:52 p.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 5 at 3:40 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 301 calls for service from Dec. 6 to Dec. 12. The department recorded two arrests in its public log.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Liam M. Rood, 21, of Bates Road, Westfield was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Brittney Tiber, 21, of Grape Street, Chicopee, was arrested on charges of larceny over \$250, forgery of a check, and uttering a false check.

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Members of the Agawam Library's Cookbook Club at the recent cookie exchange included, back row, from left, Susan Comee, Lynne Rogerson and Mary Bennett; and front row, Susan Peoples, Wendy McAnanama and Dee Zeigert. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ANN-MARIE AAS-SALAMENTA

Library Cookbook Club members swap cookies for the holidays

The Agawam Library's Cookbook Club had a cookie exchange at its December event. Each member selected a favorite cookie and made four dozen to swap, with a few left over for tasting. Coffee, tea and cold milk accompanied the delicious treats.

The Cookbook Club is open to new

members and meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Cookbooks and recipes are selected in advance each month. Anyone interested in joining can contact Wendy McAnanama at 413-789-1550, ext. 8865, or wmcananama@agawamlibrary.org.

Early entry available for photo show

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library's seventh Open Juried Photography Show is accepting early-bird registration forms. For a copy of the prospectus-brochure and a PDF form that can be downloaded and filled out on the computer, visit agawamlibrary.org/about/friends.

The completed Parts 2 and 3 of the form may be mailed with a check made payable to the Friends of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Photo Show.

Submissions are due by Jan. 28. Submission fee is \$25 per entry before Jan. 14, \$30

after. Multiple entries per category are allowed. Categories include creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. All images must be original and made by the photographer.

Show dates are Jan. 30 to Feb. 24. A total of \$1,340 will be awarded. The award for best in show is \$300; and in each category, first place, \$120; second place, \$80; third place, \$60. In addition, eight awards for honorable mention will be presented, as well as a photographers' choice award.

For more information, visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends.

FIELD ■ from page 1

"The substantial completion date was met on Sept. 30 and we were able to start having games on Oct. 3," said Bonfiglio.

In order to use the facility for October and November games, the town Building Department worked with the contractor to achieve partial occupancy, including use of the ticket booth and concession stands and use of the field itself. Also available are the basketball courts and tennis courts, though they are no longer in use because of the cold weather.

Bonfiglio reports the varsity baseball and softball fields will be ready to go in the spring. The softball field received new dug-outs and sod was laid down on the field. A new baseball field was created behind the high school building, and that work has been completed.

She did say the practice fields, which received seeded grass, will need time to grow in the spring before they are available.

"The lacrosse teams will have to prac-

tice off-site when they are not using the main field," said Bonfiglio. "Though they often use the junior high to practice."

Varsity games were played at School Street Park earlier this year. The multi-use field will be available for home lacrosse games in 2017.

The new locker rooms, team rooms, and bathroom facilities in the hallways surrounding gymnasium have been fully completed and are in use. Those facilities were also delayed to early October, but the volleyball team had access to the gym after that point for home games, and teams had locker room use for the final part of the season.

Decisions over public use of the track will be made in the coming months. Athletic Director David Stratton says he works with the Parks and Recreation Department to determine non-high school use of the fields and facilities.

RAID ■ from page 1

land Security, according to James Leydon, a spokesman for the Hampden DA. Leydon also said police searched a residence in Agawam as part of that investigation.

Agawam Police Chief Eric Gillis declined to comment on the case, stating that the attorney general's office is the lead agency in the ongoing investigation. The attorney general did not release information on any arrests connected to the Feeding Hills raid.

Li was arrested in West Springfield on Tuesday and slated to be arraigned at Northampton District Court on Wednesday, on charges of trafficking persons for sexual servitude, deriving support from prostitution and money laundering. She allegedly recruited women, advertised sexual services online, set up appointments for sexual encounters, and arranged for transportation for the women. The women allegedly stayed in the same rooms where Li arranged for them to provide sexual services to buyers for a fee, at Pine Spa NoHo and at Agawam Massage Therapy. Authorities allege that Li typically received the majority of the profits from these sexual encounters.

According to the attorney general's office, Li's operation came to light during an investigation into a separate but similar trafficking ring. Also arrested on Tuesday were Feng Ling Liu, 50, and her husband Jian Song, 48, both of Sunderland, Mass., on charges of trafficking persons for sexual servitude, deriving support from prostitution, money laundering and conspiracy; and Liu's daughter Ting Ting Yin, 26, of New Hyde Park, N.Y., on charges of trafficking persons for sexual servitude, deriving support from prostitution, money laundering and conspiracy. Yin was alleged to have coordinated the transport of women from Nassau County, N.Y., to Massachusetts; Liu and Song are alleged to have recruited

women and advertised sexual services at Hadley Massage Therapy in Hadley, Feng Health Center in East Longmeadow and Massage Body Work in Framingham, Mass. Liu and Song were arrested at their residence and were slated to be arraigned in Belchertown District Court on Wednesday; Yin was arrested in New York, with a rendition hearing to be scheduled at a later date.

According to the attorney general's office, authorities developed evidence that Li and Liu were the leaders of the two operations, running profitable and organized criminal enterprises through "massage parlors" that had been set up as fronts for human trafficking. Through these businesses, Li and Liu allegedly offered sexual activity between women and buyers in exchange for a fee.

Investigations are still ongoing, and all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Ten victims were identified during Tuesday's raids. The attorney general's Victim Services Division is working with victim service organizations to ensure victims have the assistance and services they need.

In addition to Agawam Police, State Police and Homeland Security, other agencies that contributed to Tuesday's arrests included the federal State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security; Massachusetts Department of Corrections; Hampshire and Franklin county sheriffs' departments; Hampden, Middlesex and Northwestern district attorneys' offices in Massachusetts; Manhattan, Nassau County and Queens district attorneys' offices in New York; and police departments in New York City and in Amherst, Belmont, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Framingham, Greenfield, Hadley, Lexington, Malden, Northampton, Framingham, Sunderland and West Springfield, Mass.

CENTER ■ from page 1

next steps to keep the family center afloat.

"We're just exploring options and hopefully we can resolve it," Mineo said.

Mineo said the Valley Opportunity Council, a Holyoke-based nonprofit that has been providing administrative, technical and financial support since June, has agreed to keep the West of the River Family Center going at least until February. It has been a hefty subsidy.

"What really hit me was the article that came out that said \$12,000 negative," said Provost, referring to an Agawam Advertiser News story in November that said the nonprofit was losing \$12,000 a month amid declining enrollment and high rental costs. Provost said at that point, he confirmed the figures with VOC, which caused him to reconsider the partnership. Provost said a former employee of the West of the River Family Center had given him a much different impression of the nonprofit's financial health and membership level when talks about a move to Stick Time began over the summer.

In order to accommodate West of the River Family Center programs, said Provost, he would have had to reconfigure his own operations, at great expense. It would have meant the loss of one of the three artificial turf fields indoors — and a potential corresponding loss of revenue from the youth athletes and teams that practice there — and a disruption to the weightlifting gym. It did not make sense to undertake those renovations for a program losing members and money.

"Our facility's not set up the way they wanted it," Provost said. "There were some things we'd have to change that would be our cost. That would be an added expense."

The family center opened in October 2014 as the Agawam YMCA Wellness and Family Program Center, an "express branch" of the Greater Springfield YMCA. Its local board of directors consisted of lo-

cal business and government leaders who had long been campaigning for a community center in town. In 19 months of operation, it never turned a profit and, according to Springfield Y officials, never reached a sustainable membership level. When the Springfield Y withdrew its sponsorship this June, the local board reopened the family center as an independent nonprofit, with help from VOC, in the same location with the same staff, equipment and programs.

Mineo, who is also vice president of the City Council, said in November that the family center was losing members and was only able to pay \$8,000 of its \$20,000 in monthly bills. He said at the time that he hoped a partnership with Stick Time would allow the family center to save on rent, offer a wider variety of programs and market itself to a new pool of potential members, the parents of Stick Time's youth athletes.

Provost said despite some overlap between the two organizations — both consider support of youth sports part of their mission — they were never a perfect fit. Stick Time's main focus is on young and serious athletes; the family center is intended to be just that — a low-cost and low-stress community resource for all ages.

"The last thing they wanted to do was come here," Provost said. "This was their last resort. They wanted to make it work over there."

Mineo and Provost both confirmed that apart from the time they spent working on the details of the partnership, neither side had invested money in the deal: Stick Time did not begin renovations, and the West of the River Family Center has not completed the purchase of any new equipment.

Stick Time has been in operation at 153 Springfield St., across the parking lot from what is now the West of the River Family Center, for three years. Provost co-owns the company with Daryl deVillier.



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As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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New bridge near Rising Corner makes it easier to hike scenic trail

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

SOUTHWICK — From fish to frogs to beavers to birds, wildlife flocks to wetlands, but until recently, humans traversing one of the wettest sections of the New England Trail did so with their heads down, focused solely on where to put their feet.

That all changed when the Appalachian Mountain Club, with help from the town of Southwick and nonprofit groups, opened a new bridge this fall, replacing the sometimes flooded, sometimes sinking wooden boards that previously carried the multi-state trail through a bog near the Agawam town line. Heather Clish, director of conservation and recreation policy at the Boston-based club, took a walk over the floating bridge earlier this month and marveled at the difference.

"You can stop and look at the environment," Clish said.

The old boardwalk was shaky and would have to be rebuilt every few years, said Michael Zlogar, a trail crew leader with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Laying cement blocks and more and more boards across the mud wasn't working. The solution — after going through several design ideas — was to drive metal poles deep into the ground and use them to hold in place a 240-foot floating bridge, similar to a boat dock.

"The project has been underway a long time," Zlogar said. "It's been decades they've

been trying to put stuff in the swamp below the beaver dam."

Zlogar leads volunteer construction crews, and oversees paid contractors, doing trail work along the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. He said it's not often that the Appalachian Mountain Club advocates building an expensive metal bridge, but this bog in Southwick was the exception.

"A lot of places, we can just put in a boardwalk, and that's fine," he said.

The New England Trail's 233 miles include 125 miles of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, which dates back to the 1950s and runs locally along the Metacomet Ridge, which includes West Suffield Mountain, Provin Mountain and East Mountain.

Southwick's Community Preservation Act fund contributed \$70,000 to purchase materials, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts funded the cost of designing the bridge. Construction work was done by the Appalachian Mountain Club and its contractors, and the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Building the bridge took 10 days, starting the Monday before Labor Day.

The trail is also known as the NET, the New England National Scenic Trail and the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, or M&M Trail. The federally designated trail runs from Long Island Sound in Guilford, Conn., through West Suffield, Southwick and Feeding Hills, northeast to Royalston, Mass. The Metacomet-Monadnock Trail continues north from there into New Hampshire.



Sheila Toto of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, center, and Heather Clish and Michael Zlogar of the Appalachian Mountain Club talk about the new floating bog bridge on the New England Trail near the Agawam-Southwick line. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



The 240-foot floating bridge on the New England Trail, about 1,000 feet north of Rising Corner Road, replaces a boardwalk that was prone to flooding.

Cultural Council welcomes new members

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

An opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, ap-

pointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



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Smoke alarms available in Fire Dept. safety campaign

The Agawam Fire Department, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, will be conducting a home fire preparedness and safety campaign Dec. 20 and 21. Those who sign up and participate in the program will be visited by members of the Red Cross and Agawam firefighters who will install new smoke detectors in the home free of charge. To be eligible, participants must own their home, the home must have been built before 1975, and it must have no smoke alarms or alarms older than 10 years.

To participate, interested parties should sign up by calling 413-726-2885.

The goal of the program is to increase fire safety awareness and improve fire detection capabilities.

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois said, "There is no question that early fire detection and alerting of building occupants allows for safe evacuation in an emergency. Smoke detectors save lives. It is my hope that this program can help prevent tragedies from occurring in our community."

St. David's Church

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Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, Dec. 17th at 1 pm

Do the holidays often leave you feeling sad and struggling? If you are feeling blue during the holidays for any reason, join us for our Blue Christmas Service. For more information, contact Fr. Harvey Hill at 413-786-6133.



Christmas Services



Please join us at any of our Christmas services. There will be a celebration of the Eucharist at all of the following Christmas Eve and Christmas Services.

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Family Service
10:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

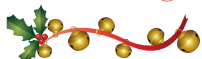
*We wish you all a very blessed
and merry Christmas!*

Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, January 1st
9:00 a.m.**

Please join us for our Lessons and Carols service as we read lessons followed by singing a Christmas Carol after each lesson is read. This is a beautiful service to end one year and begin another. We hope to see you there.

Happy New Year!



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SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Lockwood, Pullen lead Agawam past Chicopee

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – It was a typical opening night. Plenty of nerves, plenty of new players wearing that varsity uniform for the first time, and both teams wanting to make that great first impression.

For the Agawam High School girls basketball team, Maddy Lockwood served as a great catalyst to help the Brownies get their first win of the regular season as they defeated visiting Chicopee 46-35 last Friday night.

Agawam trailed just briefly in the first quarter, but took a 10-4 lead and never looked back.

Chicopee made its closest run with about 57 seconds left in the game when McKenna Sousa nailed a big three-pointer to cut Agawam's lead from nine points to six. The Pacers were hoping for another possession quickly so they would only trail by four.

But it was a huge layup from the left side by Bianca Culhane that helped erase that basket and gave Agawam their eight-point lead back 42-34.

The Pacers were able to grab

a point with 35 seconds left on a free throw, but Natalie Pullen was sent to the purposefully with 28 seconds left. She missed her shot and Chicopee re-took possession trailing by eight.

The Brownie defense was focused on just eating time off the clock. They did that, and got the ball back on a jump ball. That turned into a free throw for Lockwood with 12 seconds left to put the game out of reach.

It took more than minute for either team to score before an inside pass to Culhane made it 2-0.

Chicopee took a very brief lead in the first quarter, but Agawam would come back to take a 5-4 lead and Lockwood nailed a trey to make it 8-4 Agawam. After Chicopee missed a pair of free throws, Lockwood scored again to make it 10-4.

The Brownies managed to keep Chicopee at arm's length throughout the game with Lockwood and Pullen leading the offense. Pullen did an excellent job, nailing some good shots from the field.

Agawam succeeded most with



Natalie Pullen tries to grab away a rebound. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Bianca Culhane tries to keep the ball from her opponent.



The Agawam High School girls basketball team returned to action last Friday night at home against Chicopee. The Brownies won their opener 45-36.

BASKETBALL | page 12

HOCKEY

Passerini's two goals not enough, Brownies lose season opener

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The new season got off to a pretty good start for the Agawam High School ice hockey team, but it quickly turned as East Longmeadow erased a 2-0 deficit and defeated the Brownies 4-3 on Saturday.

Agawam missed the playoff for the first time in several years, and ended their most recent run of success that took the Brownies all the way to the TD Garden for the state championship game two seasons ago.

Anthony Passerini got Agawam off to a quick start with a goal following a faceoff just 45



Anthony Passerini tries to make a pass before the defender intercepts. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY | page 12

FOOTBALL

Football divisional alignments up for vote once again

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Football teams are on the move again, with divisional and local conference realignment proposals coming forward for votes in January.

Football divisional realignments were released last month with team having until Dec. 21 to file appeals for the proposed division they would compete in.

Divisional realignments were changed only a year ago, with the state going from six divisions to eight. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is going with eight divisions again, but is renaming them.

Instead of the 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4, 4A, the division will simply be numbered 1 through 8. In

the case of many Western Mass teams, which only had teams occupying Divisions 2, 3, 4, and 4A, it would mean a team currently in Division 2 would be in Division 3 under the new format. The other teams would be in 5 (3 in the old format), 7 (4 in the old format), and 8 (4A in the old format).

Some teams are changing divisions because of new enrollment numbers.

Much of Division 3 will remain the same, with Central, Chicopee Comprehensive, Holyoke, Agawam, Minnechaug, Westfield, and Amherst all staying in the Division. Longmeadow and Ludlow will make the move up to Division 3. They were both in lower divisions last year. Ludlow could appeal their positioning due to the

FOOTBALL | page 12

Sports

Wright’s slam wows crowd, Brownies fall in OT

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The crowd at Agawam High School was ignited in the second quarter when John Wright slammed a dunk into the basket to give the Brownies a lead in the game.

But their halftime lead did not last as the Brownies suffered a tough start to the second half. In the end, it was Northampton that won a wild overtime period and the Brownies suffered their first loss of the season 58-51 on Monday night.

Agawam was up in the game early before the Blue Devils were able to come back to tie the score and take a short lead early in the second quarter.

The Brownies did not let it last and after Wright big dunk, the Brownies went on a good run with baskets from Meesha Ohradka, Zach Moccio, and another by Wright to take a 25-16 lead at halftime.

Northampton shut the door in the third quarter, holding Agawam to just three points while taking a one-point lead to the fourth quarter.

The teams stayed just about even, with Agawam managing to tie the score before the end of regular season, sending the game to overtime.

Northampton’s Henry Doherty and Elijah Davis both shined during the four-minute overtime period in which they out-scored the Brownies 17-10.

In the defeat, Agawam was led by Wright with 19 points. He was great from all over the court, with two treys and three made free throws. Ohradka had 11 points.

It was Agawam’s second game of the season as they opened up the season last Friday night with a defeat over Commerce High School 61-49.

Agawam was in control for most of the game as they won their second straight season opener against the Red Raiders. The two teams also matched up at the beginning of last year in independent play. Ohradka had a big game with 22 points to open the season.

Wright had 12 points and Jon Leclair finished with nine points. Three other players had five points each.

The Brownies will continue to stay on the independent circuit into January, as their schedule is set up for them to finish the season with 14 consecutive league matchups.

Agawam will host Renaissance on Dec. 15, then will have a nearly two-week break before hosting Holyoke on Dec. 28.



Jon Leclair tries to fight through the Northampton defense. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kyle Currier looks for an open teammate to start a play.



Mike Basile tries to defend against the Blue Devils.



Zach Moccio flips a pass to his left.

New facility gets indoor track teams rebuilding

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School indoor track teams returned to action last Friday night in the early meet held at Smith College in Northampton.

The boys indoor track team suffered three defeats against Holyoke, Longmeadow, and Central, while the girls had a straight split of the three meets, with a win, loss, and a very rare tie.

Caroline Hitchcock, who recently made her commitment to run track at Holy Cross, won the high jump event in her first meet of the indoor season. Facing a number of other teams, she finished with a just of 5 feet, 4 inches, winning by more than a fit over the next best finisher.

Sabrina Christie did a good job in the shotput event. She placed third among her competition with a throw of 33 feet, 2 inches.

The one mile run was won by Agawam’s Jason Beaver, who is a top contender for the Western Massachusetts championship in that event.

In the one-mile run, Erin Dustin had a good run with a time of 6:03.10.

In addition to her win in the high jump, Hitchcock did a good job in the 55 meter hurdles with a finish of 10.32 seconds.

In the 600 meter run, Agawam’s Colin Czerpak finished behind three Holyoke competitors with a run of 1:34.23.

Coach Dan Pryce said the full rebuilding process for the indoor track teams has begun, and with a new facility at their disposal, he is now hoping to see a big increase in the turnout over the next few years.

“It has been tough without having an actual facility to train and have home meets on,” said Pryce. “We have that now, but it will take some time to build up the numbers.”

Depth is definitely needed on the boys side, where they much fewer competitors to fill up each of the events. The girls team has numbers, but many lack experience and are younger.

Pryce said the new facilities are in use when the weather permits, and boys and girls are able to use the track and field equipment to train for various events and do their running.

“We definitely how the numbers hurt last Friday night with the boys team,” said Pryce. “But we will get better. And we have Jason who is a big contender for the one mile.”

He also lauded the accomplishments of Hitchcock, who will be competing for another title in the high jump. She also could make a lot of noise in the 55 meter hurdles.

The Brownies will be involved in a meet at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Their direct competition will be Westfield.

COLLEGE NOTES

Monahan wins event

WESTFIELD – Senior Ashley Monahan (Springfield / Agawam) won the 800 meter race to lead a number of good performances from the Westfield State women’s track and field team as they completed at the Yale season opener on Saturday in New Haven, Conn. Monahan ran the 800 in 2:17.66, improving her New England Division III qualifying mark from Springfield College.



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Sports

Last week's scores

Friday, Dec. 9

Boys Basketball
Agawam 61, Commerce 49
Girls Basketball
Agawam 46, Chicopee 35
Boys Indoor Track
Central 69, Agawam 23
Holyoke 75, Agawam 19
Longmeadow 77, Agawam 18
Girls Indoor Track
Agawam 43, Central 43
Agawam 66, Holyoke 20
Longmeadow 72, Agawam 23
Boys Swimming
Minnechaug 108, Agawam 75
Girls Swimming
Minnechaug 124, Agawam 58
Saturday, Dec. 10
Ice Hockey
East Longmeadow 4, Agawam 3
Wrestling
Agawam 54, Hampden Charter 21
Agawam 45, Chicopee 34
Essex 31, Agawam 30
Putnam 42, Agawam 30
Monday, Dec. 12
Northampton 58, Agawam 51 (OT)

The week ahead

Thursday, Dec. 15

Boys Basketball
Renaissance at Agawam 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Agawam at Holyoke 7 p.m.
Ice Hockey
Agawam at Minnechaug 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16

Swimming
Westfield at Agawam 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17

Ice Hockey
West Springfield at Agawam 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18

No games scheduled

Monday, Dec. 19

No games scheduled

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Girls Basketball
Sabis at Agawam 7 p.m.
Swimming
Longmeadow at Agawam 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Ice Hockey
Agawam at Westborough 7 p.m.



Agawam High School hockey opened up the regular season on Saturday against East Longmeadow, suffering a 4-3 loss in their first game at Olympia Ice Center. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY ■ from page 10

seconds into the game.

It started out as a pretty good sign to the season for Agawam was Nick Frigo was sent to the penalty box just seconds earlier. Shorthanded, and starting a faceoff on their own end, Passerini would take the deflection from the draw and cruise up the right side of the ice.

All on his own, he went right to the goal and scored all alone to make it 1-0.

Agawam would kill the remainder of the penalty and then went on a power play themselves, but came up empty.

East Longmeadow then took control of possession, keeping the puck on Agawam's end for several minutes.

Goalie Nick Askins did an admirable job stopping a number of shots on goal. Passerini connected for the second time with 3:48 remaining in the first period. He would set up on the left side of the goal and sent a wrister that went off the goalie's pad and slowly crossed the goal line to make it 2-0 after one period.

The Spartans then erased the lead by

scoring twice in the second period to make it 2-2. The defense broke down again in the third period as the Brownies allowed another pair of goals.

Billy Schwarz scored his first goal of the season for the Brownies in the period, but Agawam was not able to come back to tie the score before regulation ended.

Askins made 24 saves in his first start of the season while Dylan Sliech added an assist for the Brownies.

Agawam has a much smaller team than in past years, with 18 players on the roster. Just seven are seniors, two of them goalies. Passerini and his brother Niko are returners to the team. Kevin Lecuyer and Preston Kozub are also returners. Kozub had a pretty good season last year.

Sliech, Mitch Drewnowski, and Ryan Laudato all made the squad as freshmen this season.

Agawam won just four games last year. The Brownies will face Minnechaug and West Springfield during the next week before traveling out to Westborough on Dec. 21 at 7:20 p.m.

BASKETBALL ■ from page 10

some mid-distance jumpers.

Chicopee would struggle on offense early in the game, being held to single digits in the first two quarters.

Agawam would go up 23-11 at halftime.

The Pacers' offense was improved during the second half, but Agawam was able to keep pace, and the night belonged to the Brownies.

Lockwood would lead the Brownies with 15 points. Pullen was next with 14 points, and Culhane contributed six points. For Chicopee, Ayanna Meadows led the team with 10 points. Gina Mitchell and Madison Gutierrez had eight points each. Gutierrez left the game before halftime with an ankle injury, but later returned and played for most of the second half.



Samantha Stratton pushes a pass to her right.



Meghan Haines goes for a layup.

FOOTBALL ■ from page 10

fact the team has been struggling for the past several years.

The new Division 5 will feature many familiar teams as well, though South Hadley and Wahconah will move up while Commerce and West Springfield make their way down from the higher division. Holdovers include Northampton, East Longmeadow, and Belchertown.

Division 7 will see a lot of new teams as Putnam comes down along with Pittsfield and Chicopee and Tacnoic. Mount Greylock and Pathfinder will be moving up from the lowest division, as will Pioneer Valley, Turners Falls, and Lee. Palmer is one of the only holdovers.

Ware will be among 10 teams in the new Division 8, which includes many 4A hold-

overs and four teams moving down, including Mahar, Hoosac, Greenfield, and Athol.

The process of creating the divisional alignments as well as the new conferences is always a very difficult process.

Chicopee High School Athletic Director James Blain said there are a lot of factors that are considered, including the different fluctuations in enrollment. While the alignments and conferences are often criticized after they created, he said a lot of hard work goes into their final conclusions with the best effort possible at creating a competitive balance for all the teams involved.

Longmeadow High School Athletic Director Michael Capotosto is the chair school representing the region in the football realignment process.



Preston Kozub makes his way up the left side of the ice. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kevin Lecuyer tries to corral a rolling puck.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to Turley Publications, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Dec. 17
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Second Baptist Church of Suffield, 100 N. Main St. at 3 p.m. Free will offering to benefit the Fuel Bank administered by the Suffield Emergency Aid Association.

BAKE SALE at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Russian Orthodox Church, 118 Carew St., Springfield, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Items for sale will include Christmas cookies, baked items, perogies and stuffed cabbage.

SANTA WILL FLY IN on his sleigh for a visit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Park Square gazebo in Westfield. Santa will have candy canes for children.

Sunday, Dec. 18
LIVE NATIVITY at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Road, Southwick during and shortly after the 10 a.m. Mass. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

TRINITY CHAMBER SINGERS AND HANDBELL CHOIR concert at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield. Free admission.

Tuesday, Dec. 20
THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. The ACC is looking for new members.

Thursday, Dec. 22
THE MUPPETS CHRISTMAS CAROL holiday movie for teens at 2:30 p.m. at the Southwick Public Library, 95 Feeding Hills Road. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the reference desk at 413-569-1221, ext. 3.

Wednesday, Jan. 11
THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

ONGOING
BEGINNER TAI CHI classes at the Southwick Senior Center on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Easy stretching and slow, gentle movements that improve balance and strength and enhance the immune system. For more information, call 413-569-5498.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, Lilian at 413-568-2916.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through

June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu
Monday, Dec. 19: Chicken and pasta primavera, spinach salad, oranges.
Tuesday, Dec. 20: Roast pork, baby potatoes, green beans, applesauce.
Wednesday, Dec. 21: Hamburg and gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, baked good.
Thursday, Dec. 22: Chicken potpie with puff pastry, garden salad, pudding.
Friday, Dec. 23: Meals on Wheels only – cheese omelet, sausage, hash brown, orange juice, muffin, cantaloupe.

Calendar of Events
Monday, Dec. 19: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Writing Club; 1 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., monthly day sance with Richie Mitnick (\$3); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Tuesday, Dec. 20: 9 a.m., exercise, open knitting

/ sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, annual variety show, "Candy Cane Kisses" (\$5); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.
Wednesday, Dec. 21: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 8:30 p.m., Meet the Mayor (coffee shop); 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:15 p.m., mini concert with third- and fourth-graders of Phelps School; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Thursday, Dec. 22: 9 a.m., exercise breakfast out (no class); 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch, open art; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6:30 p.m., pitch.
Friday, Dec. 23: Senior Center closes at noon. No lunch in-house. Meals on Wheels early delivery. Coffee shop will be open.

Legals

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD16P2155EA
Estate of:
David Theodore Cesan
Date of Death:
October 15, 2016
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David W. Cesan** of Hampden, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

David W. Cesan of Hampden, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/15/16

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD16P2248GD**

**In the matter of:
Santina M Graziano
Of: Feeding Hills, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Gary Graziano** of Feeding Hills, MA, **Suzanne M Graziano** of Feeding Hills, MA, in the above captioned matter alleging that **Santina M Graziano** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Gary Graziano** of Feeding Hills, MA, **Suzanne M Graziano** of Feeding Hills, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **12/27/2016**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 13, 2016
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/15/16

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD16P2178EA
Estate of: Mark Mina
Date of Death: 08/22/2016
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Hyman G Darling** of Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Hyman G Darling** of Springfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appear-

ance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **01/20/2017**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 02, 2016
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/15/16

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD16P2202EA
Estate of: Susan Patch
Date of Death: 10/28/2016
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal**

Representative has been filed by **Marie Jablonski, Esq.** of Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Marie Jablonski, Esq.** of Springfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **01/04/2017**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 07, 2016
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/15/16

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD16C0219CA
In the matter of:
Paula Frances Welch
Of: Agawam, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Paula Frances Welch** requesting that: **Paula Frances Welch** be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:

Paula Frances Egan
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: **01/05/2017**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 8, 2016
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/15/16

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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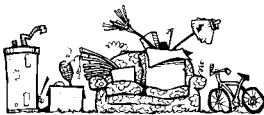
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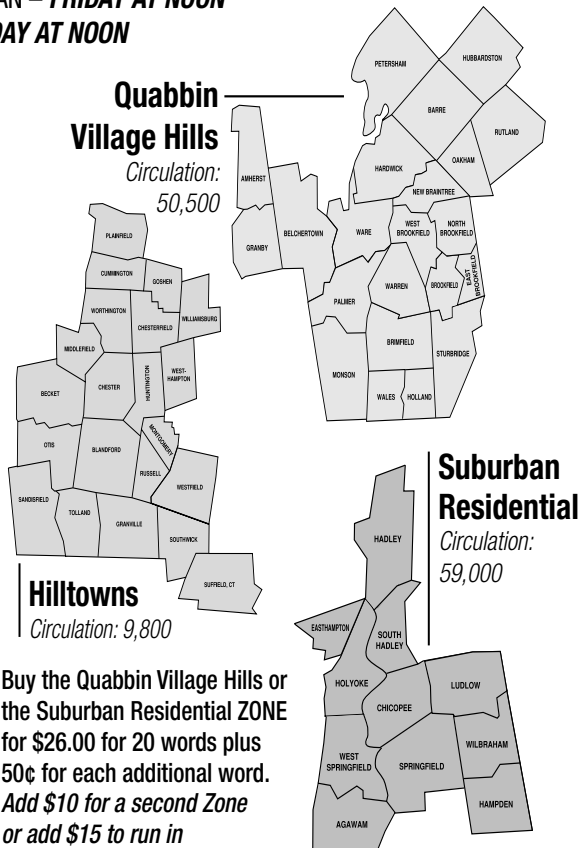
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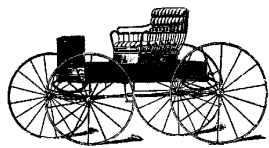
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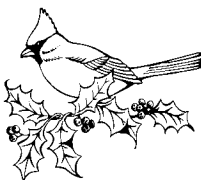
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To celebrate **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S**, the

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for the week of Dec. 26

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Students and parents mingle in the AHS cafeteria as they look over displays of student art work at the school's annual Winter Arts Festival last week. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Festival showcases AHS artists, artisans

Agawam High School's cafeteria was transformed into a student art gallery last week for the school's annual Winter Arts Festival. The Dec. 7 event showcased the work of art students as well as some creations from STEAM-based classes (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) in a variety of media.

Displays included illustrations, cartoons, drawings, paintings, sculptures and digital photographs. Students also put their musical talents to work when several AHS choirs performed on stage in the auditorium.

In past years, students set up their displays in the hallway outside the art classrooms, but art teacher Debora Flo-

rek said it had become too crowded with people and artwork. She said art teachers decided to move festival into the cafeteria this year to give students more space to display their work and make it easier for those attending to see the displays.

The event began in 2003 when the art department joined forces with the music department to turn what had been just a Christmas concert into the Winter Arts Festival.

"It started small — 10 art students or so — but it has grown to about 280 art students," said Florek. Nearly 500 students participated in this year's festival, including about 40 students from engineering classes, some of whom worked on a scale model of the Eiffel Tower.



Seniors Talia Persico, left, and Jenna Gamelli — both Art Honors II students at Agawam High School — are surrounded by a display of their drawings and paintings at the school's Winter Arts Fest on Dec. 7.



For an assignment to create a surrealistic painting using a brand name, senior Jessica Fontaine created a tropical theme based on a Tropicana orange juice carton. The Art Honors II student then put palm trees on the carton and added a tropical-looking snake wrapping itself around the carton.



AHS art teacher Dianna DeCaro tries out one of several cardboard chairs covered with newspapers. Students in STEAM-based classes (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) constructed the chairs, which were finished by sculpture and digital photography classes.



Senior Janelli LeClair poses with charcoal drawings of a wolf and a portrait of an older woman that the Arts Honors I student drew with white chalk.



Faith Demakis shows off a hippo with large eyes that she created for a mixed media art class. The papier-mâché hippo is composed of newspaper, and cardboard.



Junior Joe Slinsky looks at a drawing he created that features a variety of images, including a squid, the word "Lucky 7," and a money machine. He drew the images as part of an Art Honors I assignment.



Andrew MacDonald holds a ceramic mug he made for his Sculpture I class. The junior created a mug that features a 3D design of a stylized monkey.